

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application as amended are requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claims 5, 6, 9-16, 18 and 19 are objected to and claims 20-28 are withdrawn from consideration.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 have been amended in accordance with the description provided in the specification in order to more clearly recite what Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the claims.

Response to Objections

Claims 5, 6, 9-16, 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that claims 2-5 and 7-8 are also in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence upon claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

Claims 9, 10, and 17 have been amended to include the limitations of their base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 9, 10, and 17 are in condition for allowance. Claims 11-16 are also believed to be in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency upon claim 10. Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that claim 19 is also in condition for allowance at least because of its dependency upon amended claim 18.

Response to Rejections

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Passlack, U.S. Patent No. 5,597,768. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, which according to the Examiner has been stated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants believe that claims 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 are also believed to be allowable at least because of their dependency upon claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) has been overcome.

Summary


Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1 4, 7-8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102, and the objection to claims 5, 6, 9-16, 18 and 19 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims as amended. In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-19 is earnestly solicited. In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

In accordance with the enclosed transmittal form, authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 13-4771.

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Respectfully submitted,


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